

Mr. Burke Marshall
Old Orchard Road
Armonk, NY 10504

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Marshall,

I doubt if you will remember in detail, if at all, my FOIA lawsuit for pictures of President Kennedy's shirt collar and tie. You may also not be prepared to believe what I assure you is true, that after receipt of my request, which was ^{within} a specific provision of the Archives' rules on that material, those rules were changed and the changed rule was sworn to as the only one applicable. I was pro se and did not know how to bring that to Judge Gesell's attention. What I wanted to show and wanted the pictures for is not at all what the Archives represented to him. Those pictures would not and when taken did not show any blood. Moreover, if they had, I did not need them if, as I never did, I had any interest in showing any blood. Moreover, and if you question my word, I will send you the proof: the Archives and the FBI had ^{earlier} given me pictures of no use at all as evidence that are simply full of blood-in color.

I was the first to request access to the autopsy film. You denied me access. Later, after others had been given access and their statements were used against the Kennedy family, Dr. Rhoads solicited me to refile my application. I had a friend who is a radiologist but because by then I was convinced that if I did it would in some way be used ~~against~~ against the family's interest, I declined, spelling that out to him. As you know, in addition to the artist's rendition of them they have been leaked. I was given a set I did not ask for and have not used them and will not.

I have never had the interest represented. And as you should know if you do not, the knot on the tie, which is the only part of it that has any evidentiary value, was unknotted and reknotted many times. That was ^{first} done, in fact, by the FBI, for purposes of making a picture to deceive and misrepresent. I do have several color pictures of that tie from the Archives. Just yesterday I had one ~~photo~~ copied in black and white for a book to be published.

Whether or not you believe the foregoing, ^{and} I assure you it is all true, by now it is, I think, apparent that no legitimate purpose will be served in denying me those pictures taken for me pursuant to Judge Gesell's order. I ~~asked~~ that you please ask the Archives to do that, including their letter reporting that the knot on the tie could not be photographed because it was unknotted (still again). If you suspect that I have in any way misrepresented, perhaps you would ask that these pictures and that letter be sent to you so you can satisfy yourself and then mail them to me.

I am the only writer who not only eschews the multitudinous conspiracy theories, when it appears necessary I debunk them. My work is entirely factual. I believe that Senator Kennedy was aware of this when he saw to it that the legislative history of the 1974 FOIA amendment is clear in reflecting that official mendacity in one of my earliest of FOIA lawsuits required the amending of the investigatory files exemption.

I enclose that page of the Congressional Record.

Tom Susman, then counsel to the Senator's FOIA subcommittee, told me that he asked the Senator in advance if he knew what he was doing. The Senator told him he was well aware of that.

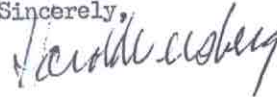
I was not aware of it until I left that afternoon with Susman, ⁽¹⁹⁷⁴⁾ but Caroline ~~wax~~ Kennedy was sitting on the floor nearby and listened to all of that conversation, most of that afternoon.

What I presume you have no ^way of knowing is what the then Archives' photographer told me as he was about to retire, that the FBI had used all its skill to make some photographs as meaningless as possible. It actually made color pictures for the Commission that show no color at all. I have two of those of the tie. One does not even show that the tie had a pattern! And the pictures of the shirt that the FBI took for the Commission depict the three parallel stripe pattern as a single stripe.

It is ^{the} character of the photographic work that caused me to ask for copies to be made for my study and then possible use, only by the Archives' photographer, not one of the FBI lab.

I regret very much that the victims were further victimized but if you know anything at all about my writing or speaking you know I never did that. I also do nothing at all like it in the book about to be published.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg